

Questions and Answers Related to the *Salmonella tennessee* Outbreak

1. How many cases are confirmed in Indiana?

As of March 15, 2007, Indiana has 19 confirmed cases of *Salmonella tennessee*. The ISDH laboratory uses DNA fingerprinting of the bacteria that has caused a person's infection to identically match it to the outbreak. A case can only be confirmed by testing a stool sample. Every person involved in the outbreak is contacted immediately by their local health department.

2. What are the symptoms of Salmonella?

Salmonella can begin within six to 72 hours of eating the peanut butter. Symptoms of Salmonella include vomiting, diarrhea, fever, cramps, nausea, and gas. The illness usually lasts four to seven days. People with poor underlying health or weakened immune systems are at risk for life-threatening infections. Most cases of Salmonella infection are short lived, and do not require medical care or antibiotics. However, many other bacteria and viruses have the same symptoms. For more information about symptoms, click here <http://www.in.gov/isdh/healthinfo/salmonella.htm>

3. What types of peanut butter have been recalled?

Feb. 16, 2007: All jars of Peter Pan peanut butter purchased since May 2006 and Great Value peanut butter with a product code beginning with 2111 purchased since May 2006 may be contaminated. Every jar of Peter Pan in the United States will have the 2111 product code on it as they are all manufactured in the same ConAgra plant in Georgia. This recall includes all products made at that plant including small packets of peanut butter.

March 1, 2007: The three brands described below are part of the original Peter Pan recall. These brands have been recalled as of February 16, 2007 and are no longer being sold. However, some consumers may still have these products in their home.

- a. Sonic Brand Ready-To-Use Peanut Butter Topping in 6 lb. 10.5 oz cans. Sonic outlets used the topping until 2/16/07, when the product was recalled. The topping was used in the following Sonic products: Peanut Butter Shake, Peanut Butter Fudge Shake, Peanut Butter Sundae, and Peanut Butter Fudge Sundae.
- b. Carvel Peanut Butter Topping in 6 lb. 10 oz. cans. Carvel used the topping until Feb. 16, 2007, when the product was recalled. The topping was used in the following Carvel ice cream products: Chocolate Peanut Butter, Peanut Butter Treasure, Peanut Butter & Jelly, and Reese's Peanut Butter Cup Sundae Dasher. This includes any other customized products containing the Peanut Butter Topping and peanut butter flavored ice cream in ice cream cakes.
- c. J. Hungerford Smith Peanut Butter Dessert Topping in 6 lb. 10 oz. cans. This topping may be used by retail and restaurant outlets throughout the United States but is not available for direct purchase by the public.

March 9, 2007: ConAgra has extended their recall of all Peter Pan peanut butter, and all Great Value peanut butter beginning with product code 2111, including peanut butter toppings, back to October 2004. This information was obtained recently as part of the ongoing investigation being conducted by FDA. Consumers who have purchased any of the products since October 2004 should discard them. FDA's advice to consumers continues to be not to eat any Peter Pan peanut butter or any Great Value peanut butter beginning with the 2111 product code.

↓ See more Q & A below ↓

4. Which jars have been contaminated with Salmonella?

It is not yet known which jars of peanut butter have been contaminated. With assistance from the FDA and CDC, we may know a more specific product code or expiration date as the investigation progresses. The FDA has confirmed the presence of *S. tennessee* in the plant environment.

5. Where can I get reimbursed for the recalled peanut butter (see Q & A number 3)?

If the jar is unopened, most sellers will reimburse you directly at the place of purchase. If the jar is opened, you can mail in the lid to ConAgra along with your name and mailing address to:

ConAgra Foods
P.O. Box 3768
Omaha, NE 68103
24-hour toll-free hotline (866) 344-6970

6. I want to get my jar of peanut butter tested. Where can I request this?

The CDC has only tested jars of confirmed cases of the outbreak. This testing has confirmed the presence of *S. tennessee* in several jars of the recalled peanut butter (see Q & A number 3). The FDA is currently testing only unopened jars obtained by the recall at the plant level. If you would like your peanut butter tested, please click here for private testing laboratories <http://www.in.gov/isdh/regsvcs/foodprot/pdf/LaboratoriesList-2005.pdf>

7. Where can I file a complaint of illness?

Please provide you or your family member's name, contact information, date(s) of illness, symptoms, type of peanut butter (e.g. Peter Pan creamy), size of jar, product code number, and expiration date, and contact one of the following:

- a. ConAgra, click here: <http://www.conagrafoods.com/index.jsp>
- b. Your local health department, click here:
http://www.in.gov/isdh/links/local_dep/index.htm
- c. Email ISDH, click here <http://www.in.gov/isdh/contact.html>

8. Where can I find information about compensation for my medical bills?

Please contact ConAgra directly or seek legal advice.

9. I/my household member ate the recalled peanut butter (see Q & A number 3) and I/my household member is/was ill with diarrhea.

a. I still have the jar. What should I do?

Do not eat any more of the peanut butter. Throw away the jar. Most cases of Salmonella will run its course and do not require medical treatment or antibiotics. If the diarrheal illness is severe with bloody diarrhea, fever, or symptoms lasting more than three days, you should consult a health care provider

b. I no longer have the container of peanut butter. What should I do?

Most cases of Salmonella will run its course and do not require medical treatment or antibiotics. If the diarrheal illness is severe with bloody diarrhea, fever, or symptoms lasting more than three days, you should consult a health care provider.

↓ See more Q & A below ↓

10. I have a jar of the recalled peanut butter (see Q & A number 3), and I/my children ate some of it, but no one is sick. What should I do?

Do not eat any more of the peanut butter. Throw away the jar, but return the lid for a refund (see Q & A number 5). If anyone in your family develops severe diarrheal illness with bloody diarrhea, fever, or symptoms lasting more than three days, they should consult a health care provider.

11. I have a jar of peanut butter that is not the recalled peanut butter (see Q & A number 3) and I/my household member ate some of it.

a. No one is sick. What should I do?

There is no need to do anything differently. You may consume the peanut butter with confidence.

b. I/my household member is/was ill with diarrhea. I still have the jar. What should I do?

There's no evidence that this illness has been caused by the peanut butter you are describing. If the illness is severe with bloody diarrhea, fever, or symptoms lasting more than three days, you should consult a health care provider.

12. Can I feed the recalled peanut butter (see Q & A number 3) to pets or animals?

Please click here for more information

http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/salmonellosis_2007/pet_q_and_a.htm

13. Where can I find more information about the national outbreak?

Please click here for the CDC website

http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/salmonellosis_2007/outbreak_notice.htm

Please click here for the FDA recalls <http://www.fda.gov/opacom/7alerts.html>